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IN MEMORIAM, DR. SAMUEL CLAGETT BUSEY.

At a special meeting of the Board of Managers of the Columbia Historical Society held Wednesday afternoon, February 13, 1901, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

The Columbia Historical Society have heard with deep sensibility that our venerable and highly valued associate, DOCTOR SAMUEL CLAGETT BUSEY, has been removed from the scenes of his earthly labors; and as an evidence of our sorrow at his departure—though full of years as of honors—we desire to enter this minute upon our Records to testify to our deep feelings of regret. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That this Society in common with his numerous friends and fellow citizens, bear grateful witness to the excellence of the private life of Dr. Busey, as well as of his high and exceptional professional attainments; to the broad charity, humanity and sympathy which beautified his ministrations to the suffering; to his activity in historical and professional research and to his public spirit and distinguished usefulness as a citizen.

*Resolved*, That this minute be entered at large upon the Record of our Proceedings and that a copy be sent to his bereaved relatives with the assurance of our sincere sympathy in their great loss.

*Resolved*, That in behalf of the Society, the Board of Managers will attend the funeral of our deceased friend as a further mark of respect.

JOHN A. KASSON,  
*President.*

MARY STEVENS BEALL,  
*Secretary.*

ALEXANDER B. HAGNER, }  
W J MCGEE, } *Committee.*  
J. ORMOND WILSON, }

REMARKS OF MR. J. ORMOND WILSON.

I do not propose to speak of our departed colleague and fellow-member as a physician, although he practised that profession with eminent success in this Capital city for half a century and is most tenderly and gratefully remembered by hosts of patients and friends thus acquired; nor as a member of this Society, in which no one, save its founder and first president, has contributed more largely to its success; nor as a member of the District Medical Association and of the Board of Directors of the Garfield Memorial Hospital; nor of his connection with numerous other public institutions upon all of which he has left the indelible impress of his clear intellect and forcible personality. All these special fields of his activities, so rich in suggestion, I leave to others who came in closer touch with him in these labors.

In estimating the value of a true man there are qualities lying back of his special acquirements and callings that constitute the most important factors to be considered, characteristics that mark all that he is, does, or says, and in Dr. Samuel C. Busey we had an example of these, worthy of our highest admiration.

His whole career was remarkably free from the taint of self-seeking. Ever willing to serve the public, he spared no labor in thoroughly investigating whatever engaged his attention and in his adherence to honest conclusions, when reached, he was as firm as a rock.

Clear insight, sincerity, courage, and a perseverance that knew no such word as fail, were pronounced characteristics of the man. On such a manhood as a base he built and the structure of his life work will endure through generations. Like all men of this class he has left our world the better for his sojourn here.

REMARKS OF MR. CHARLES MOORE.

I became acquainted with Dr. Busey through his books. Happening to be in search of information on some Washington topic, Mr. Hutcheson sent me to one of Dr. Busey's volumes. I found it so entertaining that I read it aloud at home, and was sorry when the last page was reached. Without

much literary form, with little of the historic spirit, his "Pictures of the City of Washington in the Past" is evidently the work of a keen observer, who appreciated thoroughly the contrasts through which he had lived. Moreover it is infused with the Washington spirit—a quality hard indeed to define. He believed in the District of Columbia. He had pride in its past, eager interest in its present, and unbounded hope in its future. The great questions of state which are debated and decided on Capitol Hill were to him as they are to most Washingtonians, merely as scenes of a play. Little he cared for the brief hours the actors strutted behind the footlights. His interest was in the actor and actress off the stage. Their secrets he knew; how well, the size of the piles of ashes from fires kindled by his executors will tell. And yet so exquisite was his sense of honor that you shall search his published writings in vain for a single trace of scandal, or a single breath of suspicion. When he desired to put a man in the pillory, he did so with all the formality of a magistrate. The sentence might be severe; but it was never unjust.

It was in connection with the investigation of the District Charities that I became personally acquainted with Dr. Busey. He was intensely interested in the subject and scope of the inquiry. The founder of the Children's Hospital, he was no longer represented in its management. The inveterate critic of Columbia Hospital, he believed that institution to be a detriment to the community. There were other hospitals with the management of which he had indulged in fierce controversies. Yet his attitude was never vindictive. He was the foe of abuses; he hated shams; and he was not afraid to speak his mind.

In preparing the sketches of the District Charities, I found his books and Dr. Toner's pamphlets invaluable, and I enjoyed especially his discriminating sketches of the medical men of the past. Clear-cut, adequate, picturesque, these brief biographies bring before one the medical worthies of by-gone days. What a host they were—the Mays, of Puritan stock, taking the position for which education and ability fitted them; the Worthingtons, the austere Doctor Charles and his

more urbane son, "Dr. Nick"; Dr. Bohrer, homely but graceful, polished, sympathetic, the friend of the poor; the inventive McWilliams; Antisell, the popular teacher; Blake, the banker-physician; Borrows, the skeptic; Hall, the benefactor of the Washington City Orphan Asylum, "more willing to render service to the suffering poor than to receive remuneration"; Hezekiah Magruder, whose patients had to chase him from drug store to drug store, because he was too busy to keep office hours; and many another physician whose name and fame Dr. Busey has preserved for future generations.

Once having become acquainted with Dr. Busey, I saw much of him. He was a frequent caller at the Senate District Committee room; for his interest in District matters was intense. I admit willingly that I came under the influence of that fierce will and uncompromising determination. In many matters of legislation I strove to carry out Dr. Busey's ideas; and so did others.

The distinguished member of the District Committee who has handled all the medical legislation for the past decade, once laughingly said to me: "I've done everything Dr. Busey asked me to do—have passed all his bills—have submitted to his tyranny—but now I must have this one thing as I want it." The one thing was an anti-vivisection law; and he never got it, thanks to the strenuous fight Dr. Busey directed against the measure. Dr. Busey's last fight was for the slow-sand system of water-filtration in the District of Columbia. The experiments conducted by the officer in charge of the Washington Aqueduct had resulted in the recommendation of the mechanical system of filtration. To this decision Dr. Busey took strenuous exception. The matter was held open for a year. Meantime Dr. Busey organized his forces. Although he was so feeble that he could scarcely speak above a whisper he called to him his loyal lieutenants. Then followed criticisms, resolutions, discussions, protests. The Medical Society; the Civic Center, the Board of Trade; the Business Men's Association; and citizens' associations from so many points of the compass that only a sailor could name them—all these alleged representatives of public opinion chorused the demand

for slow-sand. In vain the Engineer Corps endeavored to withstand the onslaught. Lying on his death-bed, Dr. Busey eagerly awaited tidings from the fray. One day near the end when some doctor ventured to express a hope that all would come out right, the old doctor roused himself and in fierce reproof called out: "You've got to watch 'em every minute—every minute—or they'll get the alum filter!"

The day before he died I called at his house, to me perhaps the most hospitable one in the city of Washington. I sent to his room a cheering message on the prospects of slow-sand filtration; and he returned a request that I would come in and see him the next day. Before twenty-four hours had passed he was gone. A week later the filtration question was settled as he would have settled it. That was his last great battle for the health of the people of the District of Columbia; and dying, he won it.

Next to the Organic Act perhaps the greatest piece of legislation ever enacted in the District of Columbia is the Code of Law, which will go into effect next January. Dr. Busey was not unwilling that the lawyers should have a code of law to suit them, but he was concerned lest they should repeal the laws for which he had labored so long and so hard. Hence it is that the last page of the Code contains a paragraph specifically keeping in force the medical legislation in which he had interested himself. Here is the list, taken from the law: "An Act to regulate the practice of pharmacy in the District of Columbia, approved June fifteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight; an act for the regulation of the practice of dentistry in the District of Columbia, and for the protection of the people from empiricism in relation thereto, approved June sixth, eighteen hundred and ninety-two; an act regulating the construction of buildings along alleyways in the District of Columbia, approved July twenty-second, eighteen hundred and ninety-two; an act for the promotion of anatomical science, and to prevent the desecration of graves in the District of Columbia, approved February twenty-sixth, eighteen hundred and ninety-five; an act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of medical and dental colleges in

the District of Columbia, approved May fourth, eighteen hundred and ninety-six; an act relating to the testimony of physicians in the courts of the District of Columbia, received by the President May thirteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-six; an act to regulate the practice of medicine and surgery, to license physicians and surgeons, and to punish persons violating the provisions thereof in the District of Columbia, approved June third, eighteen hundred and ninety-six; and, generally, all acts or parts of acts relating to medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, the commitment of the insane to the Government Hospital for the Insane in the District of Columbia, the abatement of nuisances, and public health."

This is Dr. Busey's monument, more enduring than bronze or marble, written in the statutes of the District of Columbia for the continued benefit of the people of this District.

Who shall undertake to estimate the influence in the community of such a strong, vigorous, determined character; of a man fearless and indefatigable for the public good! A long and useful life has closed. There seems to be no other to take its exact place. Those of us who have felt its directing force must give thanks that it has been, and lament that it is no more.

TRIBUTE BY COMMISSIONER JOHN W. ROSS.

My respect for Dr. Busey was so great and my appreciation of his eminent services to the District of Columbia was so high that I would gladly join in any movement to do honor to his memory. It was his strong argument in behalf of an isolation hospital for minor contagious diseases which made it possible for us to locate those institutions in this District; and he was also one of the foremost in the advocacy of a filtration system, and generally in behalf of all that tended to improve hygienic conditions in the District of Columbia.

He was well known not only in this country, but was regarded in Great Britain and on the continent as one of the foremost physicians of his age.

While I would be pleased to be present and to say something in honor of his memory, yet I have had to abstain from evening functions of that kind for a long time.